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COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH
THE HOST COUNTRY

LETTER DATED 14 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

I have the honour to request your good offices in the official circulation of the attached note verbale as an official document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

The note verbale refers to the issue of the travel restrictions and limitations imposed by the host country on certain permanent missions accredited to the United Nations, including the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations.

(Signed) Bruno RODRIGUEZ PARRILLA

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ANNEX

[Original: English and Spanish]

Note verbale dated 13 May 1998 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the United States Mission to the United Nations

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United States Mission to the United Nations and wishes to refer to the issue of the travel limitations and restrictions imposed by the authorities of the host country upon some permanent missions accredited to the United Nations, including the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, as well as on staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities.

On 5 May 1998, the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations submitted to the United States Mission to the United Nations a travel authorization request in favour of H.E. Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations, so that the Cuban Ambassador could respond to an invitation of Mrs. Mary Spock, to attend in Washington, D.C., the funeral of Dr. Benjamin Spock, a paediatrician and eminent personality internationally recognized for his contribution to the well-being of the children of the United States of America and of the entire world. Dr. Spock was also an active collaborator of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The authorities of the host country denied the travel authorization request with the argument that the trip of the Ambassador of Cuba had no relation whatsoever to the official business of the United Nations.

It is regrettable that, in flagrant violation of the obligations assumed by virtue of the Host Country Agreement, the authorities of the host country continue to impose the travel limitations and restrictions which have already been imposed in an arbitrary manner and are based on political motivations, against the personnel of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations.

This practice is all the more incongruent in the light of the successive resolutions adopted by consensus by the General Assembly, under the agenda item on the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, and in particular in General Assembly resolution 52/159 of 15 December 1997. In that resolution the General Assembly urged the host country to lift the travel limitations and restrictions imposed and still in force against the personnel of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, as well as on the staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations considers that the denial of the travel authorization request submitted by the Cuban Mission not only is evidence of the lack of observance by the authorities of the host country of the humanitarian character of the request, but also contradicts the letter and the spirit of the Host Country Agreement signed by the United Nations and the host country, ignores the regulations of the international legal instruments on diplomatic privileges and immunities to which the Government of

the United States is a party, goes against the atmosphere of respect of diplomatic privileges and immunities which the authorities of the host country should facilitate and promote, and interferes, once again, with the normal functioning of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations requests the authorities of the host country to take the necessary and sufficient measures to promote the implementation of the obligations and international arrangements contracted to by its Government and to provide a congruent and credible reply to the reiterated and substantive denunciations submitted by the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, in the framework of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, as well as in the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, on the issue of the travel limitations and restrictions that are still imposed on Cuban diplomatic officials.